

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 209866
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01
SES-02 SAA-01 /069 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:BKBODINE:NEA:MDRAPER:AMP
APPROVED BY NEA:HHS SAUNDERS
T:LBROWN (SUBS)
DOD/ISA:RMURRAY

-----011437 180124Z /61

O 180052Z AUG 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE
CHUSMTM DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 209866

TO AMBASSADOR FROM SAUNDERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA, YE, US

SUBJECT: US/SAUDI SUPPORT FOR YAR: RESPONSE TO SULTAN

REF: (A) JIDDA 6005; (B) STATE 208508

1. I FULLY APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERNS OVER THE YAR MILITARY PROGRAM. YOU WANT TO MAKE THIS WORK, AND SO DO ALL OF US. A SOLID US-SAUDI UNDERSTANDING ON THIS PROGRAM IS VITAL FOR ALL THE REASONS YOU HAVE MENTIONED IN YOUR OTHER CORRESPONDENCE WITH US. WE WANT TO TAKE YOUR CONCERNS INTO FULL ACCOUNT, BUT THERE ARE BOTH TIME DEADLINES OF THE KING'S

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 209866

LETTER AND THE SEPTEMBER 26 PARADE PRESSING AND A LONG HISTORY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROGRAM WE NOW HAVE.

2. ONE THING I HOPE YOU WILL BEAR IN MIND IS THE FACT THAT WE ARE PRETTY FAR OUT ON A LIMB ALREADY WITH THE PHASED PROGRAM WE HAVE DESIGNED. WE HAVE CONSULTED CLOSELY WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ON THE NATURE OF THE PROGRAM AND WE HAVE

TO PLAY SQUARE WITH THEM. THERE ARE REAL AND PROBING QUESTIONS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE YAR MAY NOT BE ABLE TO HANDLE THE EQUIPMENT WE NOW PLAN TO GIVE. WE WILL HAVE TO HAVE GOOD EVIDENCE THAT THEY CAN HANDLE IT BEFORE WE CAN MOVE AHEAD WITH ANY SECOND PHASE WORK. THESE ARE SERIOUS CONSTRAINTS, NOT MINOR ONES.

3. ONE BASIC THRUST OF YOUR MESSAGE IS THAT THE SAUDIS WANT A POLITICAL COMMITMENT FROM US TO KEEP PACE WITH THE THREAT. I BELIEVE YOU CAN ASSURE THE SAUDIS THAT WE WILL BE SHARING OUR ASSESSMENTS OF THE THREAT ON A CONTINUING BASIS JUST AS WE WILL SHARE WITH THEM WHAT WE BELIEVE WE CAN REALISTICALLY DO, GIVEN ARMS TRANSFER POLICIES, COMMITMENTS TO CONGRESS, ETC. AS FOR THE US UNDERWRITING SOME OF THE COST OF THE EQUIPMENT, WE HAVE GONE EXHAUSTIVELY INTO THIS QUESTION AND IN ALL HONESTY I MUST SAY THERE IS NO, REPEAT NO, POSSIBILITY UNTIL FY 80 OR BEYOND. EVEN THIS CAN NOT BE ASSURED.

4. I ALSO KNOW THAT THE SAUDIS MAY NOT BE IMPRESSED WITH OUR ARGUMENTS ABOUT ABSORPTIVE CAPACITIES AND SO FORTH, BUT THESE ARE CONSIDERATIONS WE MUST WEIGH CAREFULLY IN ORDER TO KEEP FAITH WITH THE CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER.

5. I DO NOT BELIEVE WE CAN CHANGE THE BASIC PROGRAM
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 209866

GUIDELINES COVERED IN OUR INSTRUCTIONS IN STATE 208508. WE WILL SEE IF SOME ADJUSTMENT CAN BE DONE IN THE PRESENTATION THAT WILL MAKE IT MORE PALATABLE, BUT IN ALL HONESTY IT LOOKS TO ME AS IF ANY CHANGES WILL NOT GO BEYOND THE MODEST. AS I SEE IT, YOUR MOST IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE NOW IS TO DO WHAT YOU CAN TO FORESTALL THE SENDING OF A LETTER FROM KHALID TO THE PRESIDENT WHICH WOULD BE FAR TOO UNREALISTIC AND WHICH COULD CAUSE US UNNECESSARY DIFFICULTIES AND EMBARRASMENTS IN ANSWERING. IT WAS FOR THIS REASON THAT OUR GUIDANCE WAS SENT TO YOU, IN THE HOPES THAT THIS WOULD CONDITION THE SAUDIS -- BEFORE SENDING OF THE LETTER -- TO PLACE THEIR EXPECTATIONS IN A MORE REALISTIC FRAMEWORK AND ONE WE COULD HANDLE.

6. WE EXPECT TO SEND YOU A FOLLOW-UP MESSAGE. YOU SHOULD TELL CATHEY NOT, REPEAT NOT, TO CONVEY ANY OF THE PREVIOUS GUIDELINES TO SULTAN IF HE SEES HIM TOMORROW. IF YOU ARE SUMMONED BY SULTAN, AND SULTAN PRESSES FOR ANSWERS, I AM AFRAID YOU WILL HAVE TO DRAW ON THE BASIC GUIDELINES. BUT YOU CAN ADD THE FOLLOWING: YOU CAN ASSURE SAG THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THEM ON THE PHASED PROGRAM AND ON THE FEASI-

BILITY OF PROVIDING APPROPRIATE TYPES AND QUANTITIES OF
ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT AS THE PROGRAM EVOLVES. VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE209866
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BKBODINE:NEA:MDRAPER:AMP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780337-0317
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780848/aaaabntf.tel
Line Count: 118
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a559e360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 JIDDA 6005, 78 STATE 208508
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1693100
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US/SAUDI SUPPORT FOR YAR: RESPONSE TO SULTAN
TAGS: MASS, SA, YE, US
To: JIDDA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a559e360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014